

The Kid Angle

Kid-focused news from First Focus on Children

Mask mandate for kids?

May 20, 2021

Text/Call/Email: [Michele Kayal](#), VP Media and Communications, 703-919-8778

What could be better than having a vaccine available for each and every person in our country aged 12 and over?

Well, using it.

A majority of parents remain [hesitant to vaccinate their 12- to 15-year-olds](#). At the same time, the CDC's recent guidance on masking – [if you're vaccinated, bare that schnozz, even inside](#) – ignored both children and mixed-vaccine status families.

So do kids need masks or not? On the playground? In school? At home?

We're going to let science answer that question. But here are **three facts to consider when thinking about kids and masks**:

- **Fact #1: The risk is real:** Kids now make up [24% of all new COVID-19 cases](#), and the disease reportedly ranks among the [top 10 causes of death](#) for children aged 12-to-17.
- **Fact #2: The majority of kids are not vaccinated — at least not yet:** All 12-and-ups are now eligible, but many will not get vaccinated for a number of reasons (see parental hesitation, above). Meanwhile, vaccines for the 0-to-11 crowd are still undergoing clinical trials. Bottom line: Even vaccinated kids are likely to be surrounded by unvaccinated kids and adults. The federal government needs to make recommendations that are practical for families and that they can enact in their lives right now.
- **Fact #3: There's no plan, man:** The Biden Administration has yet to announce [a comprehensive national vaccination plan tailored to the specific needs of children](#). Until that plan is made — and implemented — the CDC and the Administration must be specific about their science-based recommendations for masks and other safety measures in school and early learning settings, as well as for families that may have vaccinated adults and unvaccinated children. C'mon, man!

If we are serious about getting children safely back to school five days a week by this fall, **First Focus on Children Director of Education Conor Sasner** notes that our leaders and lawmakers must spend the summer in open dialogue with parents, teachers and, yes, children to determine how to keep them safe and comfortable there. Children need to get back to school not just so they can learn, Conor says, but so they can receive necessary services

(think: school-provided meals, mental and physical health services, and more).
Let us know if you want to talk.



--
First Focus on Children
This email was sent to tsmith32@gmail.com. To stop receiving emails, [click here](#).